

Concordia University

COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, April 3, 1987

Present: C. Bertrand, Chair; L. Bonin, Secretary;
F. Whyte; C. Foster; P. Albert; D. Dicks;
F. Shlosser; G. Valaskakis; T. Arbuckle-Maag;
G. Auchinachie; H. Chorney; R. Cronin, s.j.;
G. Decarie; G. Dewey; S. Dubas, s.j.;
W. Knitter; J.H. Locke; J. McGraw; D. Markiewicz;
K. Mukherji; F. Muller; S. Mullett; G. Newsham;
M. Oppenheim; R. Pallen; D. Brown; H. Proppe;
J. Ryan; W. Sellers; G. Trudel; L. Van Toch;
S. Maguire; S. O'Hara; A. Macpherson;
S. Robertson; I. Sideco.

Absent with regrets:

C. Barton; W. Gilsdorf.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Two items were added: Questions and Announcements and Other Business. The revised agenda was approved.

3. Report on Academic Exchanges with China

C. Bertrand welcomed Vice-Rector Whyte to the meeting. F. Whyte explained that although a lengthy Trip Report had been filed at Senate, he wished to present an overview of Concordia's academic relations with China and mention aspects of relevance to Arts and Science which had not gained a great deal of publicity. During February 18 to March 5, twelve institutions were visited, six agreements were negotiated and four were signed with the following institutions: People's University of China; Shanghai Jiaotong University; Nanjing University and Nanjing Institute of Technology.

F. Whyte noted that of the large number of university institutions in China, only thirty are considered to be national universities and report directly to the State

Education Commission in Beijing. Of this thirty, a subgroup of seven institutions was considered to be the very best. Concordia dealt with institutions within the group of thirty and People's University of China and Shanghai's Jiaotong University were of the group of seven. The two unsigned agreements are with Shanghai International Studies University (formerly Shanghai Foreign Languages Institute) and the Microbiology Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

F. Whyte explained that each agreement was based on existing contacts and exchanges. The agreement with Nanjing Institute of Technology has generated the most publicity for it is the most innovative and includes a new model for joint doctoral training currently emphasized by the Chinese government. The other agreements, however, are also important and incorporate the following principles for co-operation: the co-operation should be mutually beneficial, conducted through frequent communication, and begin with a narrow focus and expand on the basis of experience. In addition, there should be a commitment to begin the activities as soon as possible. The activities are the exchange of scientific materials, the promotion of collaborative research and doctoral studies, and the possibility of short-term faculty exchanges.

The agreement with Nanjing University is in the area of inorganic materials and involves Physics, Chemistry, and some elements of Electrical Engineering. We expect to receive applications for doctoral studies in inorganic materials. People's University is interested in co-operating in the area of social sciences, specifically Economics at this time. People's University is the premier institution in China in that field. Jiaotong University was interested in an agreement with Concordia even though previous agreements with Concordia's Mechanical Engineering Department and with McGill proved rather unproductive for a variety of reasons. An agreement in the area of Mechanical Engineering was signed.

With regard to the two draft agreements, the Director of the Microbiology Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences will visit Concordia this summer to see what types of co-operation could be mutually beneficial. The President of Shanghai International Studies University will visit Concordia in late April and is interested in TESL and possibly Educational Technology. This Chinese institution has an agreement with Laval in the area of teaching French as a second language and since it has an American and an Australian Studies Centre, it was

suggested that Concordia and Laval form a joint project in the area of Quebec-Canada studies. Laval has indicated great interest in a project of this sort.

F. Whyte mentioned that the agreements give Concordia a number of opportunities and raise the question of funding. It is essential that Concordia receive CIDA government funding in order to dispel the image of Concordia as a local university confined to a specific area. This is especially important since funding is available and Concordia already has international contacts and activities in many areas. In fact, funding for international activities is increasing and Concordia is now well placed to make a strong drive to obtain part of that funding. F. Whyte stated that an overview of all of Concordia's international activities was needed and that departments would be surveyed in the near future. Much interest both within and without Concordia has been generated by the China trip and the university's efforts in other international areas also deserve to be recognized.

C. Bertrand thanked Vice-Rector Whyte for his presentation, and said that a copy of the Trip Report would be filed with the official Minutes of this meeting. He also invited Council members to read the copy of the Trip Report in the Dean's Office. The Vice-Rector and other members of the team were complimented on their political and educational endeavour.

One member wondered how the university's strained financial resources would cope with the new demands placed upon it as a result of such agreements. F. Whyte replied that work would be financed by research funds, scholarships and tuition waivers, and that a substantial part was capable of obtaining external funding in its own right. He noted that much of the activity mentioned was already being done; the agreements formalized the arrangements, increased the potential rate of exchange and gave Concordia an access to hitherto restricted government funding. F. Whyte also noted the problem of the disproportion between the amount of international research/students in general and the amount of funding the University seeks from NSERC, for example.

4. Approval of Minutes of February 6, 1987 and March 6, 1987

87-3-1 It was moved and seconded (Trudel/Muller) to approve the Minutes of February 6, 1987. One correction was noted: p.3, penultimate line - Dr. Luc Giraldeau.

87-3-2 It was moved and seconded (Trudel/Robertson) to approve the Minutes of March 6, 1987. The names of M. Verthuy and S. Hunt appear on the listing of members present as well as the listing of members absent. They were, in fact, both present. The Minutes, as corrected, were approved. Vote: Carried.

5. Chairperson's Remarks

R. Pallen, on behalf of the Committee for Non-Academic Awards, urged that nominations for three awards be submitted by 1 May. The Concordia Medal is an award for outstanding leadership presented to a student achieving distinction in areas such as student government, extra curricular activities, athletics while maintaining an academic average of 2.0.

The Malone Medal is awarded to a student solely on the basis of an outstanding contribution to non-academic activities. The First Graduating Class Award (formerly the Guinea Pig Award) honours creativity and is awarded to a student, staff or faculty member who has made the most innovative contribution to university life, either academic or extra-curricular.

C. Bertrand announced that he had received a memo for Council's information from J. Princz, Secretary of the University Library Committee dealing with Council's November resolution to limit the number of books to be borrowed at any one time to fifteen. The memo stated that after debate on March 19, 1987 the following motion passed unanimously:

"The University Library Committee, after examining the borrowing patterns in the Library, and the lending policies of other Quebec universities, and after consultation with all Faculty Councils, finds the current policy of limiting the maximum number of books that can be borrowed to thirty as completely satisfactory."

A document prepared by J. Ryan entitled 'Criteria for Academic Planning' was circulated as input to the ongoing debate about academic planning. The five-year plans submitted by the departments will be returned to departments at the April meeting of Chairs.

Chairs will be asked to consult with their faculty and re-work the report if they desire, focussing on pinpointing the strengths of the department. Responses would be expected from departments in October or November, after which time work would begin towards assembling a policy.

C. Bertrand drew Council's attention to the fact that, hidden in the major agreement with Nanjing Institute of Technology, is an agreement with their Foreign Language Affairs Office which includes the TESL Centre. The Vice-Chair of Nanjing's English Language Division will visit the TESL Centre in May 1987 to plan details of an exchange.

C. Bertrand said that H. Hill, Director of the University Writing Test, had asked him to point out that the SAPP report had not been submitted to the University Writing Test as had been stated at the 6 March Council meeting. The University Writing Test officials had nothing to do with reading and/or reporting of the SAPP report.

J. McGraw asked G. Decarie to explain and to justify why he felt obliged to 'go public' on issues which could have been resolved within Concordia (M. Farber's article in The Gazette, 24 March 1987).

G. Decarie stated that he did not go public. M. Farber took the story from the Thursday Report and the student papers, and made it clear he was running the story.

J. McGraw stated that M. Farber had told him that all statements by G. Decarie had been made freely and accurately. G. Decarie agreed that they had, but wished he had not made the last two statements which appeared in the article. He had believed the interview to be over.

J. McGraw felt the remarks made in this particular article were indefensible. He added that as yet no one had responded publicly to remarks which, he felt, were unwarranted, which Concordia neither deserved nor needed from a critical but loyal member.

One member wished to know whether or not it was possible to allow more than 24 hours between the last lecture and the final examination in a course. C. Bertrand replied that the question had previously been asked and that the response was that the Registrar's office had an extremely tight timetable given constraints such as Reading Week and the start of the summer session. In addition, the

need to hold some common exams for Day and Evening students adds a further complication. In effect, it was not always possible to allow more than 24 hours.

C. Bertrand noted that he had received a response from A. Graham, Secretary of the Board of Governors, in reply to two of Council's questions stemming from the meeting of 6 March. First, all faculty members are eligible for election to the Board of Governors. Faculty members serving on negotiating teams while serving as members of the Concordia Corporation and of the Board of Governors are expected to withdraw from situations in which a conflict of interest might arise. Secondly, with regard to the creation of the University Secretariat, this office was to be headed by a Secretary General and was to regroup the following units in the first instance: University Legal Counsel; the Secretaries of the Board of Governors and of Senate; the Code Administrator; Translation Services and Archives. Some posts may be collapsed to create the position of Secretary General. The Secretary General would serve as Secretary to the Board of Governors and perhaps even to Senate. It was felt that a Secretariat would better co-ordinate the operations of those offices which reported directly to the Rector as well as ensure legal compliance throughout the University with the Bills dealing with personnel files, secrecy, access to information, et cetera.

One member noted that the University was also trying to hire a Controller. Concern was expressed that the administration seemed to be adding two new high salaried positions.

6. Part-time Representation on Senate

C. Bertrand drew Council's attention to the Resolution from Steering Committee dealing with part-time representation on Senate. This issue had been tabled at the 6 March 1987 Council meeting pending clarification from Steering Committee. At that time Council was asked to express support for Part-time representation on Senate and to designate one of its existing seats on Senate as a part-time faculty member.

87-3-3

It was moved and seconded (Arbuckle-Maag/Pallen) that Council approve Steering Committee's three-part motion concerning part-time faculty representation on Senate. It was noted that the motion was within the jurisdiction of Council, and that the part-time representative, as other Arts and Science representatives to Senate, would

be representing the problems of Arts and Science as a teaching faculty. It was felt that the part-time faculty member should be elected in the same manner as other full-time faculty representatives to Senate; that is, the election would be held in May along with other Council elections. It was further felt that because this was a new policy and because effective representation was needed, it would be good to review the policy after three years.

In response to the suggestion that a preamble was needed, C. Bertrand agreed that, in speaking to this issue at Senate, Arts and Science could encourage Senate to move in support of part-time representation on Senate. It was further noted that part-time representatives were paid a stipend in Fine Arts; C. Bertrand agreed to speak with Dean Parker about this.

The motion, as presented by Steering Committee was adopted.

7. Library Studies: Change of Name

87-3-4 It was moved and seconded (Robertson/Arbuckle-Maag) to remove this item from the table (refer ASFC November 7, 1986). The item had been tabled pending revision of the name and rationale as the Academic Programmes Committee had been unable to accept the name Library and Information Management. Vote: Carried, 1 opposed.

87-3-5 It was moved and seconded (Locke/Shlosser) that Library Studies be allowed to change its name to Library and Information Studies.

C. Bertrand noted that a short rationale for this name change had been distributed (refer memo of A.M. Galler to D.J. Dicks dated 25 March 1987). Several members expressed uneasiness with the term 'information studies' because it was not immediately apparent what the term included. It was explained that 'information' was the term, albeit very catch-all, currently adopted by the profession. The programme teaches not only traditional library skills but also the management and handling of information. The Advisory Board of the Library Studies Programme had recommended that the Programme move in the direction of the current trend and change its name to Library and Information Studies. Vote: Carried, no opposition, 8 abstentions.

8. Appointments to Committees

- a) One faculty member to serve on the APC Sub-Committee on Computer Policy (member to be from the Arts and Science Advisory Committee on Computers).

G. Boyd of Education was ratified.

- b) One graduate student member to serve on the Arts and Science Curriculum Committee

It was noted that L. Pollack, ratified at the March 6 meeting of Council, is not serving on this Committee; the student who will serve is Mr. Ali Bouanba. A. Bouanba (TESL-Applied Linguistics) was ratified as the graduate student member serving on the Curriculum Committee.

9. Notice of Elections

C. Bertrand drew Council's attention to document ASFC 87-3-D2 and noted on p.3 under 'Senate' that one of the available seats will be designated as a seat for a part-time faculty member.

The Faculty Appeal Committee, p.2, was deleted from the listing as this Committee chooses its own chair.

Members are asked to note, p.2, that W. Sellers, appearing under 'Student Request Committee' will be on sabbatical next year. He must therefore be replaced.

10. Other Business

87-3-6 H. Chorney, expressed displeasure with the fact that social insurance numbers were used as ID numbers.

The following resolution was moved and seconded (Chorney/Valaskakis):

That the Council of the Faculty of Arts and Science, noting the recent report of the parliamentary commission regarding the abusive use of social insurance numbers, expresses its concern about their use at Concordia as personnel identification numbers and suggests that an alternative system be developed as soon as possible.

The motion was adopted and will be sent to the Rector as Chair of Senate and to Fr. Graham as Secretary of the Board of Governors.

11. Next Meeting

Friday, May 1, 1987, Loyola AD-131 at 1:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment

87-3-4 It was moved and seconded (Arbuckle-Maag/Pallen) that the meeting be adjourned.